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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/665,412	09/20/2000	Tetsuji Shono	P19597	7432
7055	7590	07/21/2004	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			SELBY, GEVELL V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/665,412

Applicant(s)

SHONO, TETSUJI

Examiner

Gevell Selby

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/19/2004
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3,4,7,9,10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. Claim 2 was cancelled by the applicant in the amendment filed on 4/19/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, and 10^{are} rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mutze, US 6,072,529.

In regard to claim 1, Mutze, US 6,072,529, discloses a digital camera comprising:

a photographic lens (see figure 1, element 4) that is provided on a camera body of said the digital camera, the photographic lens defining an optical axis of said photographic lens that is stationary with respect to said the camera body (see column 2, lines 42-48) ;

an image pick-up element (see figure 1, element 2) on which an image formed by the photographic lens images, the image pick-up element comprising a

sensitive surface that intersects the optical axis at an intersection point (see column 2, lines 58-55);

a tilting/swinging mechanism (see figure 1, element 6: the sensor mount 6 swings about axis a_x or a_y), provided in the camera body, that enables movement of the image pick-up element, relative to the optical axis, in at least two orthogonal planes such that the sensitive surface rotates about the intersection point (see column 2, lines 56-63).

In regard to claim 3, Mutze, US 6,072,529, discloses the digital camera according to claim 1, the tilting/swinging mechanism comprising:

a mount (see figure 1, element 6) to which the image pick-up element is fixed, the mount comprising a convex surface (The convex surfaces are the cylinders extending from the mount that connect to the base); and

a base, fixed to the camera body, comprising a concave surface having a radius of curvature corresponding to a radius of curvature of said the convex surface (see figure 1: The base has concave receiving holes to connect to the mount and is fixed to the camera body that holds the lens),

wherein the mount is mounted on the base such that the convex surface is slidable on the concave surface (The convex cylinders slide in the concave holes in the base to rotate the sensor).

In regard to claim 4, Mutze, US 6,072,529, discloses the digital camera according to claim 3, the tilting/swinging mechanism further comprising an operation member fixed to the mount, enabling movement of the mount relative to the base (see figure 1, The

Art Unit: 2615

concave cylinders extending from the mount are the operation members enabling movement.)

In regard to claim 7, Mutze, US 6,072,529, discloses a digital camera having a photographic lens (see figure 1, element 4) and an image pick-up element (see figure 1, element 2), the photographic lens being attached to a camera body of the digital camera such that an optical axis of the photographic lens is stationary with respect to the camera body, an image of an object to be photographed impinging on the image pick-up element through the photographic lens (see column 2, lines 43-55), the digital camera comprising:

a tilting/swinging mechanism (see figure 1, element 6), provided in the camera body, configured to at least one of tilt and swing a sensitive surface of said image pick-up element, in at least two orthogonal planes, relative to the optical axis, wherein said the tilting/swinging mechanism comprises (see column 2, lines 56-61):

a movable member to which the image pick-up element is fixed (see figure 1, element 6); and

a stationary member to which the movable member is rotatably connected to enable the movable member to move relative to the stationary member to enable at least one of tilting and swinging the sensitive surface relative to one a point at which the sensitive surface intersects the optical axis (The base that attaches to the mount (6) is stationary in the camera body, when rotating about the a_x or the a_y axis).

Art Unit: 2615

In regard to claim 9, Mutze, US 6,072,529, discloses the digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the intersection point is stationary with respect to the camera body (see figure 1: The lens is stationary, making the intersection between the optical axis and the center point of the image sensor, on which it rotates, also stationary).

In regard to claim 10, Mutze, US 6,072,529, discloses the digital camera according to claim 7, wherein the point at which the sensitive surface intersects the optical axis remains stationary with respect to the camera body (see figure 1: The lens is stationary, making the intersection between the optical axis and the center point of the image sensor, on which it rotates, also stationary).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5 and 6^{are} objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In regard to claim 5, Mutze, US 6,072,529, discloses the digital camera according to claim 1, the tilting/swinging mechanism comprising:

a mount to which the image pick-up element is fixed; and
a base fixed to the camera body.

The prior art does not disclose the mount comprising a convex spherical surface which defines a portion of a sphere having a center point coincident with the intersection point between the optical axis and the sensitive surface of the image pick-up element; and

Art Unit: 2615

a base, fixed to the camera body, comprising a concave spherical surface having a radius of curvature corresponding to a radius of curvature of the convex surface, the mount being mounted on the base such that the convex spherical surface is slidable on the concave spherical surface;

wherein a sliding movement of the convex spherical surface on the concave spherical surface causes the sensitive surface of the image pick-up element to rotate about the intersection point.

In regard to claim 6, the prior art does not disclose the digital camera according to claim 5, further comprising an operation member fixed to the mount, that enables movement of the mount relative to the base.

6. Claims 8 and 11^{are} allowed.

In regard to claim 8, the prior art does not disclose the limitations of:

a rotatable mount having the image pick-up element attached to one side and defining a convex spherical surface on an opposite side, a radius of the convex spherical surface being centered on the intersection point; and

a base, fixed to the camera body, defining a concave spherical surface that slidably cooperates with the convex spherical surface of the rotatable mount;

wherein movement of the rotatable mount with respect to the base rotates the sensitive surface around the intersection point.

In regard to claim 11, the prior art does not disclose the digital camera according to claim 8, wherein the intersection point is stationary with respect to the camera body.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gevell Selby whose telephone number is 703-305-8623. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on 703-308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gvs



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